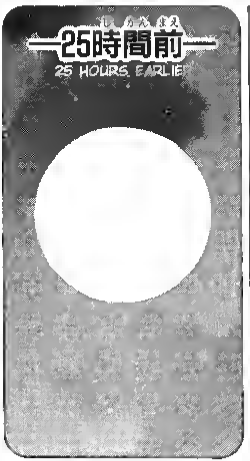
RUNNING:3

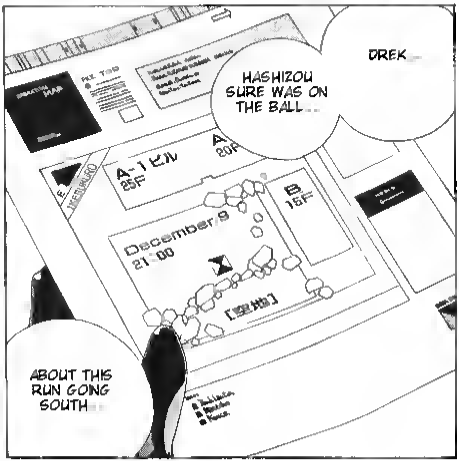
Katou

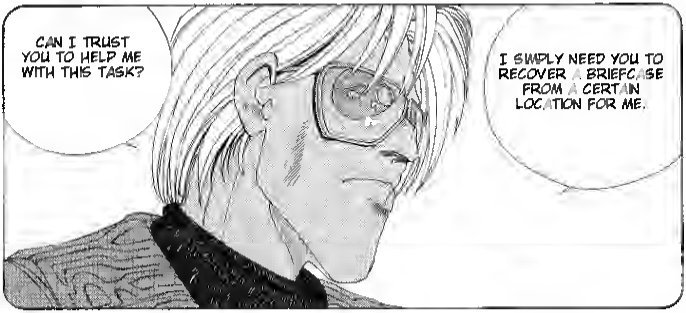
IKEBUKURO
DECEMBER 9,
20:00
KOJO
LA
WELL, THIS IS A SURPRISE

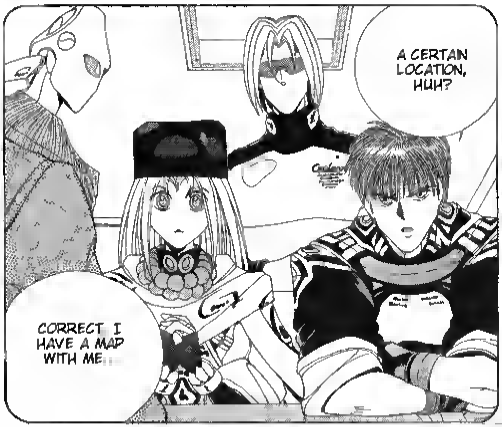
I MEAN, WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE USED THIS FOR, FACE?

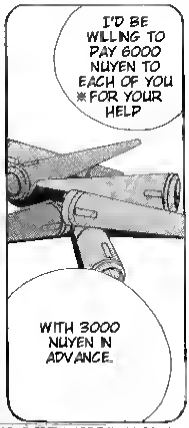
I CAN STILL REMEMBER THE SHADOWRUN THAT CULMINATED IN ME USING THAT WEAPON...
HUH...


25時間前
25 HOURS EARLIER


DREK...
HASHIZOU SURE WAS ON THE BALL...
A-1 ビル 25F
B 15F
December 9 21:00
ABOUT THIS RUN GOING SOUTH...



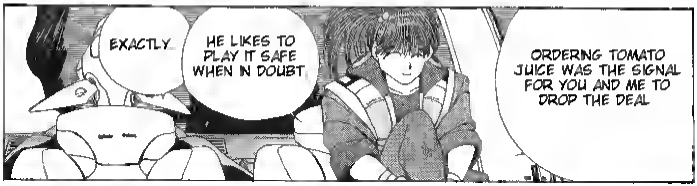




※ NUYEN (PRONOUNCED NEW YEN): THE MAIN CURRENCY USED IN SHADOWRUN. IT IS MOST OFTEN NOT PAID IN CASH, BUT INSTEAD DIRECTLY TO YOUR ACCOUNT OR WITH UNTRACEABLE "CREDSTICKS" HOLDING THE PROMISED AMOUNT OF MONEY. IT'S BUYING POWER IS COMPARABLE TO THE REAL LIFE DOLLAR.

SURELY THEY CAN'T BE ASKING FOR MORE THAN WHAT HIRING US WILL COST YOU?
SHOULDN'T YOU ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL?
A GANG HAS STOLEN THE CASE.
THEY INFORMED ME THAT IF I WANT IT BACK, THEY WILL TRADE IT.
I REFUSE TO PAY A GANG FOR GIVING BACK WHAT IS ALREADY MINE.
THIS IS NOT ABOUT THE MONEY.
AT 9PM, IN THIS LOCATION.
I'LL PASS.
ME TOO
It would be too easy
I'LL PASS. I'M NO GOOD IN A FIGHT.
UM, HASHIZOU... THAT'S REALLY BAD MANNERS, YOU KNOW...
AH!
WAITER!
I'D LIKE SOME TOMATO JUICE, PLEASE.
IF IT'S ONLY SOME GANGERS, YOU KNOW...
.....

"TOMATO JUICE", HUH...?
HASHIZOU IS SMARTER THAN HE LOOKS
BUT IF HE HADN'T GIVEN THAT SIGNAL, I WOULD PROBABLY HAVE ACCEPTED THIS SHADOWRUN.

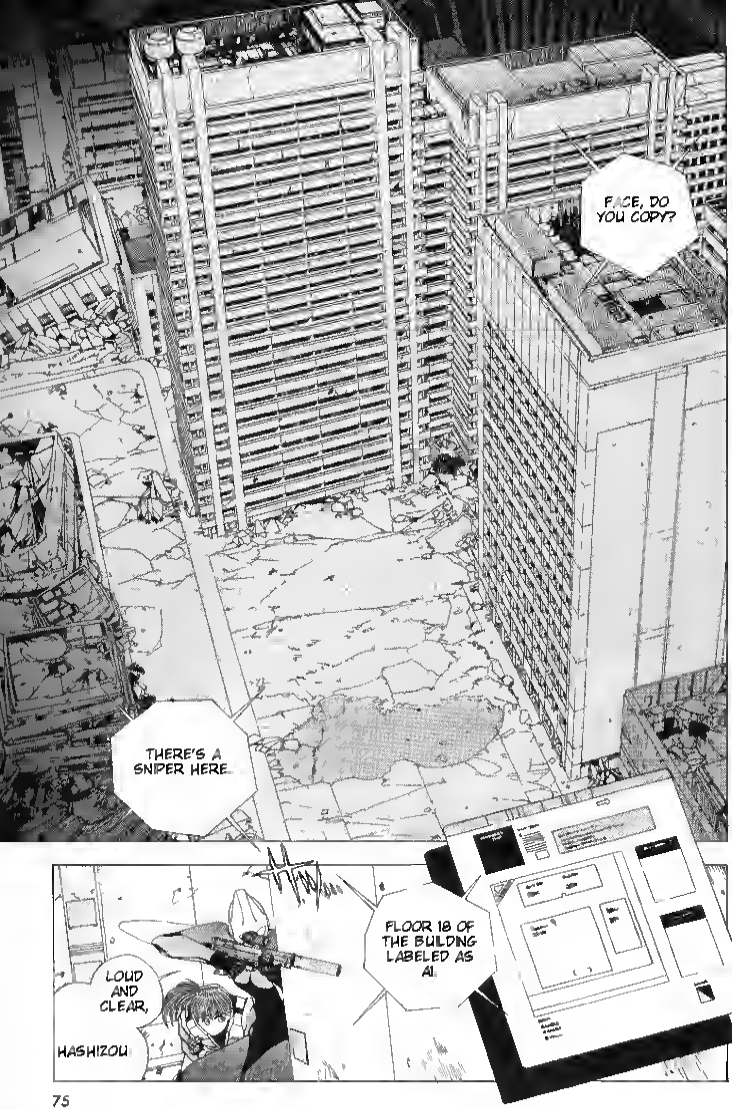

EXACTLY.
HE LIKES TO PLAY IT SAFE WHEN IN DOUBT
ORDERING TOMATO JUICE WAS THE SIGNAL FOR YOU AND ME TO DROP THE DEAL

HE MADE IT SOUND LIKE IT'S THE GUNFIRE GANG FROM THE WEST PART OF TOWN...
WHILE THEY WERE REALLY FROM THE SAME CORP AS HE...

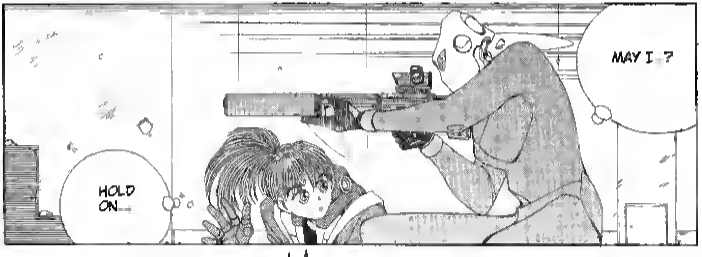
AM I TO ASSUME YOU TWO ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO ACCEPTED THE JOB?
BY THE WAY, I HAVEN'T SEEN HACHIZOU FOR A WHILE...
THAT'S RIGHT!
HONESTLY, I COULD HAVE DONE IT AS WELL, BUT IT SEEMS HASHIZOU HAD SOMETHING ELSE IN MIND AS WELL.
CERTAINLY NOT, MISTER KAITOU.
HE WANTS TO DO AN EXCELLENT JOB WITH THIS, AND THUS TOOK THE LIBERTY OF GOING TO SCOUT THE LOCATION OUT BEFOREHAND.
HM...
SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST LEGWORK, THEN...?
YOU MEAN...
※
ASTRAL PROJECTION..?

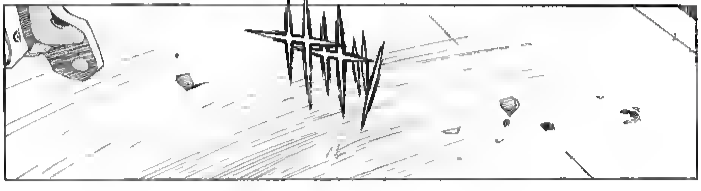
※ASTRAL PROJECTION: ONE OF THE ABILITIES OF MAGES AND SHAMANS. THEY LET THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS LEAVE THEIR BODY, ALLOWING THEM TO INFILTRATE LOCATIONS VIA THE ASTRAL PLANE AND EXAMINE THEIR SURROUNDINGS BY "ASSENSING"

.....
AN EXPERT IN DEFEATING HIS ENEMIES WITHOUT RESORTING TO GUNS.
HE IS THE MASTER OF PREPARATION, YOU SEE
RIGHT...
JUST MAYBE...
HE MAY HAVE EVEN CLEARED THE SITUATION BEFORE WE EVEN GET TO THE SCENE!
HOW WILL YOU DO THIS, THEN--?
SO...
HAVE NO FEAR, MISTER KATOU...
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON.


FACE, DO YOU COPY?
THERE'S A SNIPER HERE.
LOUD AND CLEAR, HASHIZOU.
FLOOR 18 OF THE BUILDING LABELED AS AI.

HANDLING JUST ONE ENEMY WILL BE EASY
LOOK. CAN YOU HANDLE THAT?
THERE HE IS—


MAY I..?
HOLD ON...



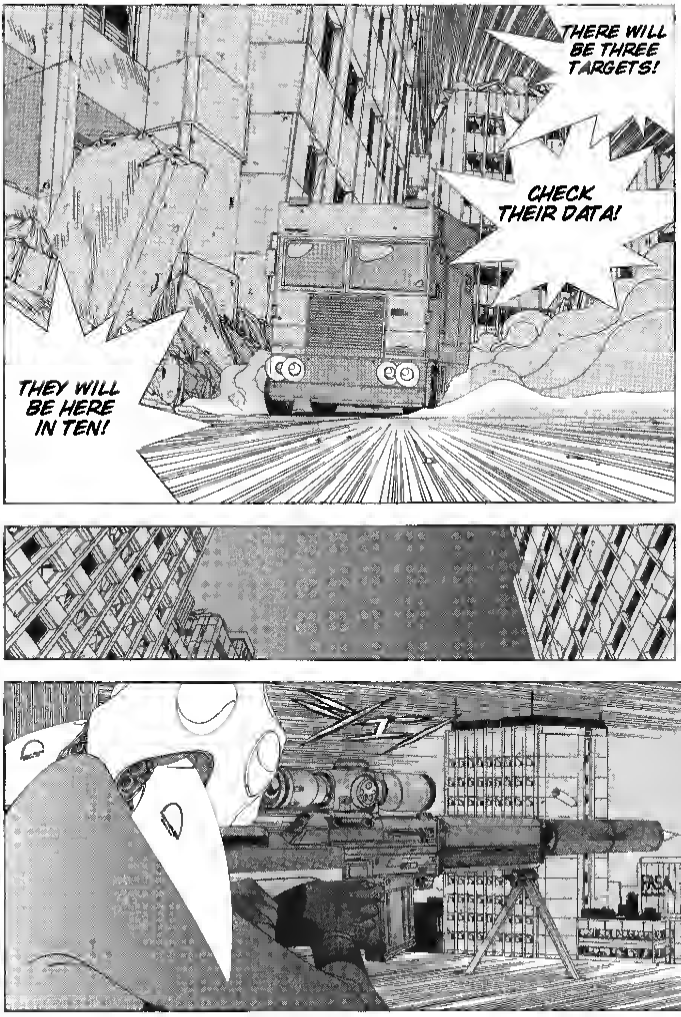
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE KATOU WILL BRING AS BAIT FOR THE RECRUITS THIS TIME...
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE...
STILL HALF AN HOUR, HUH...
20:25
.....
WELL, THAT IS VERY INTERESTING
!?
AH!!

GUH!!
ゴ!!

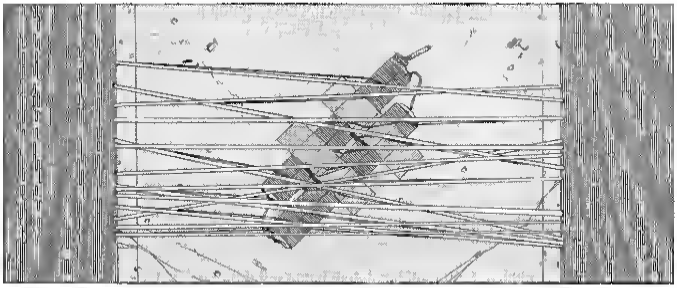
!?
W...
WOW...

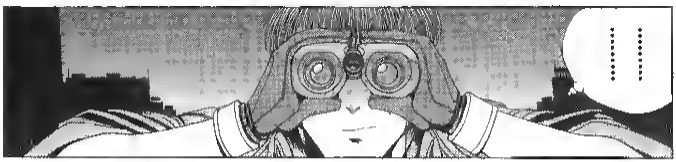
RIGHTN
LISTEN UP, MAGGOTS!!
TODAY IS GOING TO BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM ANY EARLIER GEL ROUND SIMULATION!!
EVEN IF THEY ARE BAIT, THE ENEMIES ARE PROFESSIONALS SHADOWRUNNERS!!
SO GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT!!!
TODAY WILL DETERMINE IF YOU TRULY DESERVE A PLACE WITHIN THE CORPORATION!!

▲ THEY ARE NOT REAL GANG MEMBERS, BUT CORPORATE SOLDIERS. THE GANG GEAR IS JUST FOR DISGUISE!


THERE WILL BE THREE TARGETS!
CHECK THEIR DATA!
THEY WILL BE HERE IN TEN!
FASA

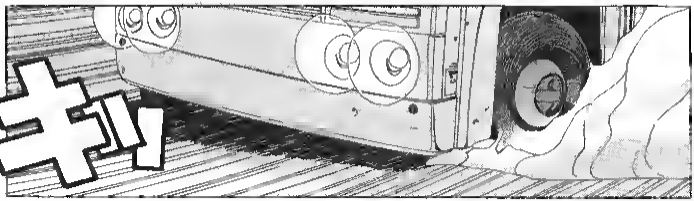
IT'S DEVIATING TO YOUR RIGHT.
JUST A LITTLE BIT.
COMPANY DOGS SURE HAVE GREAT GEAR...
A HIT!!
ANOTHER!!
ALRIGHT, I'M DONE ADJUSTING THE SIGHTS...
NOW WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE ENEMY.
I WONDER WHAT HASHIZOU HAS PREPARED FOR THEM.
HE SAID HE'D NEED NO MAGIC NOR GUNS...





THEY'RE HERE...

THEY'RE HERE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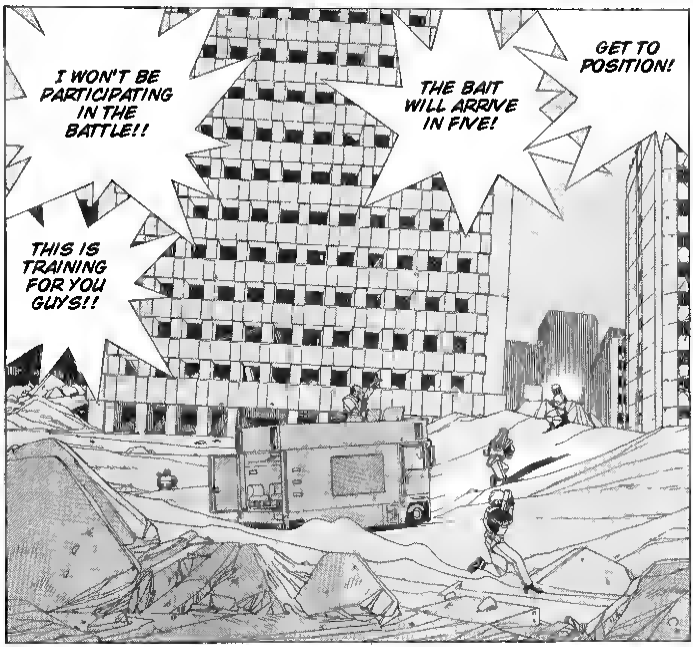
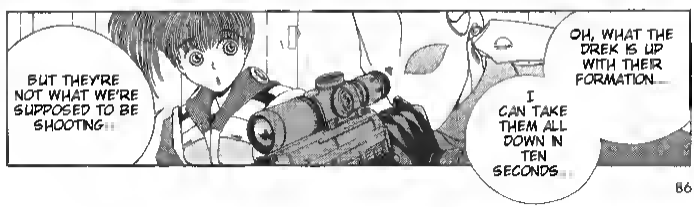

I WON'T BE PARTICIPATING IN THE BATTLE!!
THE BAIT WILL ARRIVE IN FIVE!
GET TO POSITION!
THIS IS TRAINING FOR YOU GUYS!!

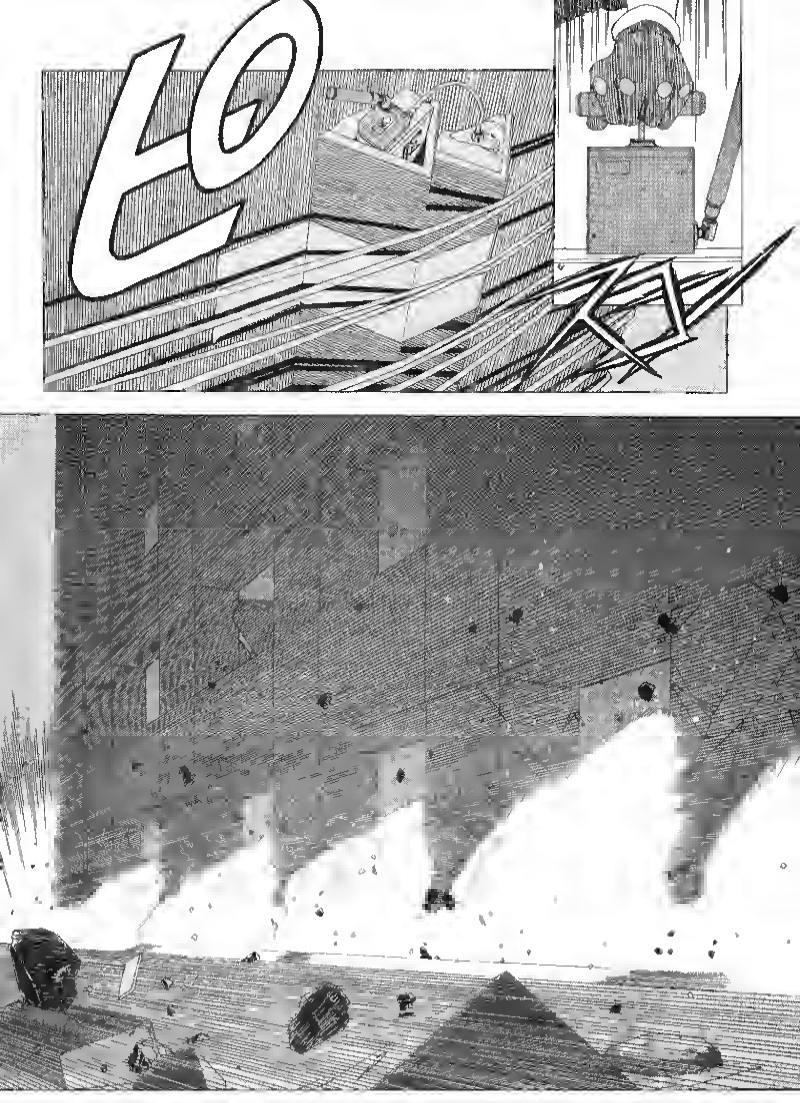

BUT THEY'RE NOT WHAT WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE SHOOTING...
I CAN TAKE THEM ALL DOWN IN TEN SECONDS...
OH, WHAT THE DREK IS UP WITH THEIR FORMATION...

WELL NOW...
THAT STREET SAMURAI LOOKS LIKE HE BATHES IN HIS AMMUNITION EVERYDAY...
GO GO GO!!
YEAH, YEAH...
NOW, THE BRIEFCASE...
Doesn't that mean he's just like you Hase

!?
!!
GH-
ズン

NO WAY!
HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE OUR BACKUP!!
ハリッ
UWA!
BOSS!!
WE... WE'RE UNDER FIRE!
パパパ
ダダダ...
THEY HAVE A SNIPER!!
CAN IT BE?
HAVE THEY TAKEN CONTROL?
!?

ドドドドド
ドドドドド
ファ!!
NOW
THEY HAVE BECOME THE BAIT AND ARE SCATTERING
スポ
……
ガラガラゴン
ひゅうううう
OH, GOOD ONE, FACE
NOW THAT WAS TASTEFUL
……
チン


LO
KI

!!
ALL MEN, RETREAT!!
ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ヒューー
!?

UAAAAAA!!
U-

ゴバッ

ドドドドドドド

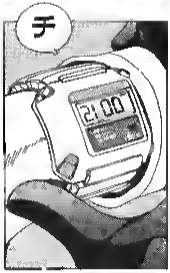
THAT THE SITUATION WOULD BE CLEAR WHEN WE ARRIVED...
RIGHT?
DID I NOT TELL YOU?
THIS...
MISTER KATOU.
THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT...
THIS IS...
HI-
HIEEEEE-EEEEEE!!

ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
GRAY,
PLEASE INFORM MISTER KATOU THAT WE HAVE RETRIEVED THE BRIEFCASE.
IT WAS EMPTY SINCE THE BEGINNING, THOUGH.

AN...
YOU HEARD THE MAN, MISTER KATOU
AND TELL HIM NOT TO FORGET TO PAY THE THREE OF US AS WELL.
I...
I UNDERSTAND.
WE EXPECT HIM TO COVER OUR COSTS, EXACTLY ACCORDING TO THE DEAL.
TO ME NOW...?
BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO...
WHAT KIND OF MONSTERS...
ARE YOU?
JUST...
WE ARE ONLY INTERESTED IN THE MISSION, MISTER KATOU...
YOU TRIED TO MAKE US BAIT FOR YOUR CORPORATION'S THUGS...
※ THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION WOULD BE TO HAND YOU OVER TO THE ECP, DON'T YOU AGREE?
WE'RE ARTISTS.
AN!
I'M ALSO QUITE THE ADEPT COOK!

※ E C P — EASTERN CAPITAL POLICE. A PRIVATELY OWNED COMPANY THAT PERFORMS THE DUTIES OF POLICE OFFICERS. THEY ARE FUNDED BY OTHER CORPORATIONS, BUT ACT ON THEIR OWN. THEIR MAIN DUTIES ARE TO PATROL AND CAPTURE CRIMINALS.

WE'RE NOTHING BUT...
ORDINARY CREATURES...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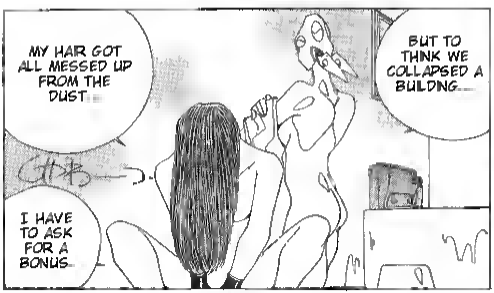
MY HAIR GOT ALL MESSED UP FROM THE DUST...
BUT TO THINK WE COLLAPSED A BUILDING...
I HAVE TO ASK FOR A BONUS...